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Decline of cholera in the islands.

It is very satisfactory to note that for the fourteen days ended January 16, 1904, there has not been a case of cholera reported in the city of Manila. While there is still some cholera in the provinces, a decline in the number of cases is to be expected. The history of cholera in the islands seems to show that they are not endemic centers for the disease.

Increase in number of plague cases

The plague situation is not as encouraging as it might be. The advent of the season for the reappearance of the disease has also brought with it an increase in the number of cases. The septicæmic, bubonic, and pneumonic forms seem to occur in about equal proportions at present. Three cases of plague occurred in one house, the source of infection being probably the same in each case. A number of dead rats were picked up about the premises.

The body of a Chinaman, dead of plague, was picked up yesterday. He had been inoculated with Shiga's prophylactic on December 13, 1903. This death has somewhat discouraged the health authorities, because it is the first authenticated death from plague that has occurred in Manila in a person inoculated with the Shiga prophylactic.

A telegram has also just been received from Asst. Surg. Carroll Fox, at Cebu, which stated that a death from plague occurred there yesterday. This is the first case reported in Cebu since October, 1903.

The following vessels cleared for the United States during the week: January 13, 1904, schooner *Prosper*, for Port Townsend, Wash., vessel was fumigated with sulphur, crew inspected on board prior to sailing; January 15, the U. S. army transport *Logan*, for San Francisco, Cal. This vessel was sent to Mariveles for treatment; 180 crew, 6 stowaways, and 1,098 steerage passengers were bathed and their effects disinfected with steam.

I have the honor to inclose also a copy of a circular letter which was issued by this office January 8, 1904. The subject of the same is set forth in the circular.

Report of cholera occurring in provincial towns in the Philippine Islands for the week ended January 16, 1904.

Place.	Province.	Cases.	Deaths.
Badian	Island of Cebu	26	26
Manganilla	do	6	6
Tudela	do	6	6
Aloguinsan	do	1	1
Ronda	do	19	19
Pulupanadan	Island of Negros	5	1
Cadiz	do	111	64
Bacolod	do	40	35
Manapla	do	5	5
Total		219	163

CIRCULAR.

Requirements of United States quarantine laws.

MANILA, P. I., January 8, 1904.

To shipowners, shippers, agents, masters, and others concerned, Manila, P. I.

SIR: In order that the requirements of the United States quarantine laws and regulations in force in this port with regard to vessels and their passengers, crew, and cargo may be better understood the following statement has been prepared. Nothing in these rules, however, whether by omission or otherwise, is to be construed as exempting a vessel from complying with the United States quarantine laws and regulations.

Incoming vessels.

1. All vessels entering from ports outside of Manila Bay shall fly a yellow flag at the foremast head until boarded and granted pratique by the quarantine officer.

2. Until vessels have been granted pratique no person or vessel shall be allowed to come close enough to hold communication. Masters of incoming vessels will be held to strict accountability for the enforcement of this rule.

3. All cases of sickness of a contagious nature or deaths due to any cause while vessels are lying in port should be reported immediately to the quarantine office, or the quarantine officer on duty on the bay may be notified by hoisting the letter "D" of the international code of signals.

4. Vessels entering the ports of the Philippines are required to be mechanically clean and kept in good sanitary condition. Special attention should be given to the forecastles, galleys, toilets, baths, and living apartments.

5. In the event of any incoming vessel having sickness of any kind on board, it is recommended that she call at Mariveles for inspection. If the disease is not of a quarantinable nature the vessel will be released at once and allowed to proceed to Manila and there granted pratique in the ordinary way. This suggestion is made with the view of avoiding the delay caused by returning to Mariveles in the event of such disease being of a quarantinable nature.

6. All vessels arriving from infected ports, carrying steerage passengers who have not been disinfected at the port of departure, will be required to call at Mariveles for disinfection.

7. The cargo manifests of all vessels sailing from foreign ports to the Philippines should be submitted to the medical officer on duty at the United States consulate at the port of departure for signature.

8. Rabbits, dogs, guinea pigs, cats, and small animals in general from infected ports can not be landed, and all such animals, regardless of the port of origin, require a permit from this office prior to being landed.

9. Ship's stores and all other articles not on the manifest are not to be landed unless a permit has been first obtained from this office.

Outgoing vessels.

Includes only vessels bound for the United States or its dependencies.

1. Masters of vessels departing from this port must obtain a bill of health in duplicate, signed by the medical officer of the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service. The applicant for the bill of health must be able to supply the following data: Name of vessel, nationality, rig, name of master, tonnage gross, tonnage net, iron or wood, number of compartments for cargo, compartments for crew, compartments for steerage passengers, name of medical officer, number of ship's officers, number of crew including petty officers, number of cabin passengers, number of steerage passengers, number of crew or passengers landed at this port, number of crew or passengers embarked at this port, total number of persons on board, port of departure, where last from, destination, source of water and food supplies, number cases of sickness and character of same during last voyage, number cases of sickness and character of same while vessel was in port. Before such bill of health can be issued the following rules must be complied with:

2. Before loading is begun vessels will be subject to inspection, and upon its completion the master will be informed as to what sanitary measures are deemed necessary and the probable time required to carry them into effect.

3. As early as possible the cargo manifests should be presented at this office for examination. If it is not practicable to present manifests, boat notes or bills of lading should be presented instead. In every case, before cargo, stores, or other articles are taken aboard, the consent of this office should be first obtained; otherwise suspected cargo might have to be unloaded and the vessel disinfected.

4. All persons, including crew and passengers, and their effects, taken on at this port are subject to inspection before embarkation. The effects of cabin passengers should be assembled at least twelve hours prior to embarkation; those of crew or steerage passengers at least twenty-four hours previously. This timely inspection is necessary in order that there may be no delay caused to the vessel in the event of disinfection being deemed necessary.

5. All baggage and other goods not on the ship's manifest must be labeled before being placed on board. All unlabeled baggage found on board at the final inspection will have to be removed from the vessel.

6. After the final inspection, which is made by the quarantine officer on board, no further communication with shore or other vessels in the harbor can be allowed.

PORTO RICO.

Report from San Juan—Immigration.

Chief Quarantine Officer King reports, February 15, as follows:

Report of alien passengers arriving at San Juan during the week ended February 13, 1904.

Date of arrival.	Vessel.	Where from.	Number of immigrants.
Feb. 8	Esk	Barbados, Castries, Fort de France, Roseau, Pointe à Pitre, Monserrat, St. John, St. Christopher, and St. Thomas.	6
10	Philadelphia	Porto Cabello, Curaçao, La Guaira....	1
	Total		7

Foreign and insular statistical reports of countries and cities—Yearly and monthly.

AFRICA—*Sierra Leone*.—Week ended January 8, 1904. Estimated population, 40,000. Total number of deaths, 20. No contagious diseases.

Two weeks ended January 29, 1904. Total number of deaths, 45. No contagious diseases.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—*Fiume*.—Month of December, 1903. Estimated population, 38,996. Total number of deaths, 96, including 28 from tuberculosis.

BRAZIL—*Ceara*.—Month of December, 1903. Estimated population, 50,000. Total number of deaths, 95, including 7 from enteric fever.

Pernambuco.—Two weeks ended January 15, 1904. Estimated population, 200,000. Total number of deaths, 351, including enteric fever 1, whooping cough 3, plague 1, smallpox 39, and 63 from phthisis pulmonalis.

CANADA—*British Columbia—Victoria*.—Month of January, 1904. Estimated population, 21,000. Total number of deaths, 23, including diphtheria 1, and 5 from tuberculosis.